

# THE POULTRY MESSENGER

## & WESTERN FRUIT-GROWER.

Vol. I,

AURELIA, IOWA, JANUARY, 1896.

No. II.

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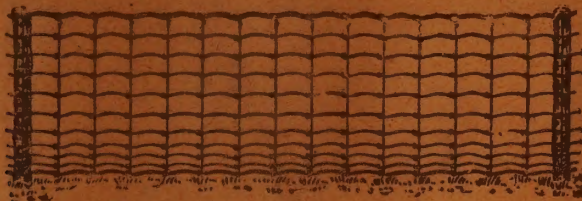
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# THE POULTRY MESSENGER

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Vol. 1,

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No. 11.

### FEEDING.

A hen's appetite is no indication of her needs. A hen that is overfat to a degree that makes it impossible for her to lay an egg will stand at the gate of the poultry yard and beg for food, and when it is thrown to her will pounce on it in a manner indicating that she is ravenously hungry. We are of the opinion that a large proportion of the people whose hens fail to lay in winter have been led to believe by their actions that they were not getting enough to eat, and have continued to increase the allowance of food until they have become too fat. We know there is much dispute on this point by the authorities. Some have recently even gone so far as to declare that a laying hen cannot be overfed, and no matter in what quantities the food may be given they will not take on flesh in sufficient quantity to prevent egg production. Others, on the contrary, contend that the main thing to avoid in the care of hens is overfeeding. They must be kept in prime condition, but this does not mean that they must be loaded down with fat.

We believe we voice the views of the vast majority of poultry raisers when we say that hens can be overfed and made so fat that they will not produce enough eggs to pay for their feed and the trouble of caring for them. As a rule those people who strive to give good attention to their flock, and yet fail to bring about the desired egg production, have been too liberal in their feeding. Their failure to get eggs is due to this and nothing else.

It may be that some fowls will not eat enough to cause them to become overfat, and will continue good layers no matter in what quantity and variety food may be placed before them. We have in mind instances which seem to give support to this theory. But we are sure we would be very wide of the mark if we would accept it as a fact ap-

plicable to all flocks. In most instances they will be a disappointment to the owner if given food until their appetites are fully satisfied. Let beginners make the experiment and early learn the truth on this point.

Experienced poultrymen contend that one quart of solid food a day is sufficient for ten hens. This is probably as near the correct amount as it can be stated. At least half of it should be reserved for the last feed of the day, and it should all be fed in a way which will make it necessary for the hens to exercise in order to obtain it. For the larger breeds like the Plymouth Rocks, Langshans and Brahmas, we have arrived at the belief that the quart of grain is hardly sufficient for the above number of hens, and make it a rule to give a couple of handfuls of the morning mash without deduction from the whole grain ration. Neither is any green food like clover ensilage or cabbage allowed to take the place of any portion of the grain. With such additions as these, and without them in the case of the smaller breeds, a quart of grain a day will be all that the above number of hens will need. As a general thing the owner will find that it will be to his disadvantage not to go beyond this. There are many who will doubt this, but let them put the matter to the test and see if we are not in the right.

### A Good Time to Begin.

The low prices of poultry make the present season a most favorable time for the beginner in poultry keeping to make his start. If he meets with poor success the first winter he will not be much out of pocket on account of the feed. Wheat, the grain which must be mainly relied upon in winter, can be procured for less than fifty cents a bushel. There never has been a time when one could get his education at as little outlay for feed for his flock as now

### Feed Corn.

Don't be timid about feeding corn during the very cold weather. Give the hens a generous meal of it every evening just before they go to roost. Fed in this way the corn need do no hurt, provided they have a sufficient variety at other times. The existing prejudice against corn is due to the fact that such a large number of people have been in the habit of feeding it to the exclusion of almost everything else.

### Should Not See Outside.

Fowls which are shut up in coops for the purpose of being fattened should not be allowed to obtain sight of those which are at liberty, as this keeps them restless and uneasy, and continually on the move for the purpose of trying to find a way to get out. It is not necessary to put them in small coops, but it is quite important that they should not be able to see the others which are foraging about in the full enjoyment of their freedom on the outside.

Scatter the grit in the scratching pen instead of keeping it in a box in the poultry house. There is no reason why the fowls should not work for their grit as well as for their corn. One of the main things which the poultryman has to contend against in winter is idleness. Don't try to spare the hens work.

Keep an eye out for the good layers now. Mark them and breed from no others next spring. Also pass sentence of death upon the poor layers, and see to it that there is no suspension on the promise of better behavior in the future.

You had better mark the old hens that are just now getting over their moult, or else you may be deceived by their bright plumage when you ship out the old stock in March. That's a trick which these worthless old blades have of passing themselves off for pullets.



### BIG PRICES.

The fabulous prices which are sometimes paid for choice fowls at the poultry shows are the occasion of no small amount of disappointment to a large number of people who are thereby led into poultry keeping. These people seemingly do not stop to consider that these extravagant prices are only obtainable by a very few breeders, and as a rule, such as have expended large sums of money for their stock, besides giving many years to the study of fancy poultry. Not one poultry breeder in ten thousand will ever succeed in selling at these prices, no matter how industriously he may work to that end.

It is probably safe to say that the majority of those who rear thoroughbred poultry never succeed in selling a bird for as much as \$10. And those who do occasionally make a sale for as much as that, would be glad to dispose of nine-tenths of the stock which they have for sale at less than half the above figure. In some rare instances this stock is as good as that which in New York City or elsewhere has sold for a sum well up in the hundreds. There is something in knowing how to sell good stock as well as to rear it.

Farmers who raise cattle, good cattle, which have the red blood of the royal families in their veins, do not expect the fancy prices for the stock of their own rearing from this blood that can be obtained by breeders of established reputation. They are generally content if they can get for the best three or four times what they would bring at the price of market stock. They estimate that this, together with the improved results which they obtain in their own yards from thoroughbreds, as compared with those from scrubs, fully pays them for making the exchange of one for the other.

It will not be wise in those who undertake to rear thoroughbred poultry to build their hopes on anything much above this. The enormously high prices will come only to a very few of them. It is best not to expect them, but to be satisfied with the moderate profit which comes to the common run of breeders who devote their attention to other kinds of full blood stock. The thoroughbred stock will pay, and pay far better than anything in the scrub line, if reasonably good judgment has been exercised in the selection, but under

ordinary circumstances it will not pay anything more than good living wages to the person who owns it. And the vast proportion of thoroughbred poultry is kept under what we are to understand as "ordinary circumstances."

### A Close Observer.

One can accustom himself to quickly take an observation of each flock as he steps into the enclosure, and detect anything which is wrong almost at a single glance. It becomes a habit with most of those who handle poultry. Things which would entirely escape the notice of an ordinary observer will be seen by him as soon as he comes among his fowls. This is a habit which will grow upon one who regularly looks after a flock of poultry. Those making an effort to cultivate it will thus save themselves much future trouble and loss. A trifling thing if neglected for a few hours will often grow into something serious. The habit of being constantly on the lookout for anything wrong enables one to see these trifles while they are trifles, and apply the necessary means for preventing them from becoming anything worse. This habit of close observation will come to some more easily than others, but it may be possessed by all who will put forth something of an effort to acquire it.

### Kerosene as a Medicine.

As a remedy for various poultry ailments, kerosene oil is held in high favor by a great many breeders. Those who have never put it to the test are inclined to doubt the virtues which are attributed to it by those who rely upon it as a cure for so many of the diseases which afflict the denizens of the poultry yard. We confess that we have had less faith in it than have many of our friends, and yet we are well convinced that it is a valuable remedial agent which is applicable to a great variety of diseases. But like all other good things, it must be used with judgment and discretion. Otherwise it will kill about as often as it will cure. We have seen it alleged by excellent authorities that corn soaked in kerosene will have a beneficial effect upon fowls suffering with colds in winter, and which are threatened with roup. It will be understood, of course, that they must be thus fed only occasionally, and not every day. This is only one of the things for which kerosene is highly

recommended, but as it comes from such a reliable source we do not hesitate to advise our readers who have fowls afflicted in the way above described to cautiously put it to the test in this particular.

### Notice the Comb.

Pay close attention to the combs of the birds which you expect to retain as breeders, particularly of the males. A faulty comb is a defect against which the judges at the shows are ready to register their severe disapproval. But they will tolerate defects of this nature in the female which would not be overlooked in the male. Many poultrymen hold to the belief that the most extreme egg production is not possible without some over development of the comb of the female.

### Condition Powders.

The best medicine for fowls is clean, warm quarters, a variety of good feed, fresh air, exercise, and pure water. If all this is given you can afford to leave condition powders out of the bill of expense. Well fowls do not need condition powders any more than a well man needs calomel or castor oil. The powders may be all right when the fowls are out of condition, but it will be time enough to give them when there is some evidence of that fact. We cannot believe that anything is gained by giving tonics and stimulants to any kind of living creatures that are in good health.

### An Immense Industry.

The poultry and poultry products of the United States amount to about \$500,000,000 annually. One would naturally suppose that the most of this was produced on the farms, but in reality less than half of it comes from that source. The poultry specialists, and people living on small lots in cities and villages supply the larger share of the poultry and eggs which find their way to the markets. No other class is so favorably situated for profitable poultry culture as the farmers, but the evidence is that the farmers as a whole do not take kindly to improved methods of poultry culture.

The poultryman who can make choice of one breed and stay right by it is the one who possesses more good judgment than the majority of his fellows, and is the one who succeeds when the others fail.



**MUST HAVE PRACTICE.**

The question is often asked why a person cannot acquire all the information he needs in order to handle a flock of poultry successfully simply by reading the experience of others. The old breeders in their contributions to the journals appear to go into all the details, and it seems to an inexperienced reader that nothing is left untold which a beginner would want to know. These people get hold of some poultry papers and thereby become interested in the subject of poultry culture. After devouring everything on the subject which comes in their way, after a few months they conclude they are fully equipped for running a poultry farm. These same poultry journals warn them that such is not the case, but in spite of this they are slow to believe the fact. If they are plainly told how to do a thing why can't they go and do it almost as well as the person from whom they receive their instructions.

These people might have described to them the method of making a pair of shoes, but something more than that would be required before they could go to work and produce a pair of shoes which would be at all presentable. It is not necessary to tell why this is so; everybody knows why. Now it is a matter of much greater difficulty to learn how to manage a poultry farm successfully than it is to learn how to make a pair of shoes. Much waste of time and money would be prevented if people could be convinced of that fact.

One must have practical experience in order to handle even a small flock of fowls with profit. And the person who undertakes such a job as this on a large scale with no better preparation for the task than what he has been able to learn from the books and papers, will make a failure of it every time. There will be no exception to this. All that he needs to know has not been told in the papers, and never will be. It is hard to make one believe this until he is well immersed in the business, and then he needs no argument to convince him of the fact.

But if it were a possible thing to write it all down in the books—omitting nothing that it would be to the interest of the beginner to know—it would not save him from trouble, for he would not conform to the instructions. He would have opinions of his own and

would carry them into practice in opposition to the advice given him. It would take him a good while to learn that various little things which he could not see the necessity of, were really very important. Meanwhile he would be meeting with loss and disappointment because he thought he knew his lesson better than the master to whom he was going to school.

People cannot learn poultry keeping wholly from the books. Neither can they learn it without them. Of all the conceited, crazy-headed creatures in the world, there is nothing to match the fellow who believes he knows all about poultry culture, and prides himself on the fact that he has learned it all himself without the aid of the books or papers. His methods are better than anybody's, and the only ones worth the adoption of the poultry-keeping public. The papers, he thinks, are all filled with trash, and that those who write for them don't see a chicken once in a year. This is a disagreeable fellow, but he gets there after a fashion with his poultry. Of course his success is far short of what it would be if he showed a becoming respect for the views of others, but that is what he does not know and will never find out.

**BETTER THAN THEY APPEAR.**

It is generally good advice to dispose of the surplus young cockerels as soon as they are of suitable size for market. Many people make a mistake in holding on to them till after Christmas in the hope of getting better prices for them than can be realized earlier in the season. Even if they succeeded in doing this, the food which they have consumed in the meantime very nearly makes up for the difference; and taking into account the disadvantage they have been to the layers by crowding in the coops, it is safe to conclude that there is nothing made by keeping them on the premises a day after they are in a fit condition to go.

But a breeder of fine poultry needs to observe very closely in order to escape sending to market some of his choicest breeding stock. The lowest grade of culls are easily picked out, but in every flock there are some unpromising cockerels that to an unpracticed eye are liable to be classed with the refuse, but which when fully grown will be very valuable birds. And a finely appear-

ing cockerel at four months of age is often a disqualified specimen at six months. A Golden Wyandotte cockerel which the writer had selected to go with his best mating the coming season, has been doomed to appear at his Christmas dinner, and an awkward, ungainly youngster which only escaped going to market by chance, has been promoted to the position of chief crower in the Wyandotte quarters. Anyone who desired this fellow for his dinner could have had him for a quarter three months ago.

None of us know how often we send our best birds to market. But we know when we have retained second and third class birds for our breeding stock and are disappointed at seeing that our carefully mated flocks have produced nothing better than what we find on our hands. How often does it happen that the birds we are looking for have gone off to the commission merchant in company with all the refuse stuff of the place.

It takes a breeder of experience to see the future symmetrical bird in the loosely put together and ungainly cockerel which is seemingly the sport of the poultry yard, and nothing but making a habit of close observation will enable one to become expert at that kind of business. And he who fails to cultivate such a habit will pay for his carelessness in the loss of many fine birds.

**Large Run a Disadvantage.**

A small outside run is better than a large one during the cold weather of winter. If the hens are confined to a small space in the vicinity of the poultry house, they will go inside before they get very much chilled, but if allowed to wander at will they will stand around in only partly sheltered spots and half freeze themselves. Keep the hens in a rather small enclosure during the cold days of winter, and calculate to supply them with all that they need without putting them to the necessity of foraging for anything.

Meat in some form is an important part of the winter feed—indeed the best results cannot be obtained without it. But one can overdo the matter in feeding meat. The authorities agree that twice a week is often enough to feed it. The giving of too much meat will lead to obstinate bowel troubles.



### NEED MORE CONFIDENCE.

Many amateur poultry raisers find out about this time of year that they have lost a mighty good opportunity to appropriate some of the best prizes of the poultry shows. Poultrymen of this class are very apt to conclude that they have nothing which would stand the ghost of a chance in competition with the choice stock which will be deemed worthy to be put on exhibition by the old breeders. Even though their own stock is the product of purchases from breeders who are rated among the best in their line, they are slow to place it on exhibition alongside of that which has been bred by persons of so much more experience than themselves. They attend the poultry shows themselves, but their birds are left at home. And before they have half made the circuit of the coops they discover that they have made a bad mistake. They know they have birds in their yards fully up to the average of those on exhibition, and some, perhaps, which are the equal of the best of them.

Scores of these amateur breeders come back to their homes from every poultry show thoroughly out of sorts with themselves for not taking advantage of the opportunity to have their stock advertised by the means which were there open to them. They might have had their best birds scored by a judge whose name is familiar to poultrymen everywhere, and even have stood a chance of "downing" an old breeder who has the name of keeping stock of the very first quality. They feel like hiring some fellow to kick them all the way home for their lack of confidence in themselves and their stock. Of course they will be on hand next year in great shape, but then the chances may not be quite so much in their favor next year, and, at any rate, they will be a year behind time in getting before the public their most effective advertisement.

### Green Clover.

If you had cut up a lot of green clover last summer and stored it away in barrels, you could now be feeding your flock of poultry at one-third less expense than you are doing, if you are relying mainly upon grain. The cost of a few barrels of clover is a mere trifle, aside from the labor of cutting and storing it. Persons who have no clover

field of their own can go to the country and buy enough of a farmer to supply fifty hens over winter for less than a dollar. And it would be easily worth ten times that much to the owner of the fowls. There is no other one thing in the way of feed which cheapens the feeding of a flock of fowls as does cut clover, and at the same time they will be kept in far better condition than would be possible if compelled to subsist upon more concentrated food.

### The Egg Eater.

The egg eating hen is very liable to show up about this time of year. And there is nothing which the poultryman has to deal with which is of a more aggravating nature than this. Darkening the nest boxes is the main thing to rely upon for the prevention of this vice, but this cannot be altogether depended upon, as the hens will sometimes persist in dropping their eggs upon the floor. Under these circumstances the use of the porcelain eggs is said to have a good effect. Some claim to have cured a coop of the most ravenous egg eaters in this way. We have never tried this means of breaking up the habit, but consider it worth putting to the test. But the egg eater should be either speedily cured or destroyed. One cannot afford to waste any time on this kind of a creature. And then one must have an almost angelic temper in order to have her about him and treat her with common respect.

### Cleanliness.

The droppings should be removed from the poultry house in ordinary winter weather two or three times a week. If the house is provided with a dropping board, or an enclosed space to catch the droppings where they cannot be trampled in by the fowls, the house will then be kept as clean as it need be. Some make it a rule to remove them every day, not that they regard this as necessary on the score of cleanliness, but because they look upon this plan as involving less labor. As to the necessities of the case, persons should be governed by common sense in this matter as in everything else. It ought not be necessary for anyone to be told that the same need does not exist for removing this waste as often during the coldest weather of winter as when it is warm enough inside of the poultry house to cause a thaw.

### Try to Prevent.

Diseases will often appear in the best kept henery and render its occupants profitless to the owner, or else utterly destroy them. There is no absolutely sure way of preventing it. But care and foresight will generally prevent the appearance of diseases of a serious nature. And the best efforts of the poultryman should be directed to the prevention of diseases rather than their cure. Not one poultry-keeper in a hundred will ever learn enough about the diseases of chickens to intelligently treat a fraction of the cases which occur in his own yards. And then a badly diseased hen even though fully cured is seldom one which has been of profit to her owner. The hen that makes the living of the person who feeds her is the one that has never been sick.

### They Don't Need Much Room.

Ten hens will supply an ordinary family with eggs the year round. And it will require but a trifle more than the waste from the kitchen to keep the hens. It is a mistake, too, that it will be necessary to have an acre or two of ground for the hens to run over. Ten hens will do very well on a small enclosure if their wants are properly looked after.

### The White Wyandotte.

Those who raise broilers for market are fast coming to the conclusion that the White Wyandotte is the fowl best suited to that purpose. It has been found that the White Wyandotte will stand more heavy feeding without getting off its feet than any other fowl, and this is the main reason why it has become such a favorite with broiler raisers. It is not contended that its flesh is any better than that of the Plymouth Rock, or other breeds of that class. It is also a noticeable fact that the Wyandotte family is growing in popularity as a general purpose fowl. Evidence of this fact can be seen in the exhibits at the poultry shows, and heard in the conversation of those in attendance at the shows. Present appearances indicate that they are about to take first place in the estimation of very many breeders whose preference has heretofore been in favor of some other breed. The Plymouth Rock is in danger of losing its laurels.



### ONLY ONE BREED.

One of the most serious mistakes which is made by poultrymen is their attempt to successfully handle more than one breed. Amateur poultrymen can hardly resist surrounding themselves with several breeds. And in the majority of cases where this is done the facilities for keeping them separate are wanting, and the result is that the place is soon overrun with a lot of unsightly and unprofitable mongrels.

We believe it is becoming better understood than formerly that the interest of the majority of poultrymen lies in confining their attention to one breed. A comparison of the advertisements in the poultry journals of to-day with those of four or five years ago furnishes pretty conclusive evidence of this fact. But poultry keepers still keep too many breeds. Not one breeder in a hundred should have more than one breed. More than half the mongrelism which we see is due to the fact that people have undertaken a bigger contract in this line than they have been able to handle, and mongrelism is something which closely approaches a sin in the eyes of all true lovers of thoroughbred poultry.

One who is naturally fitted for poultry keeping can hope to accomplish something worth his time and trouble if he expends all his efforts in perfecting one breed. The same person, though working equally hard, will in the majority of cases make a dismal failure of it if he undertakes to do this with several. The stock will deteriorate in his hands instead of progressing in the opposite direction. Many people are equal to the task of keeping the highest type of a single breed in their mind's eye, and able to bring up their flocks to that type, who will make a miserable failure of it if they attempt to attain equal results with several breeds. It is not an impossible thing to do this. Men who make it their exclusive business may and do make a success of it; but the ordinary keeper of poultry who has only a limited amount of time to give to the work, and whose facilities are not what are required for such an undertaking, will breed for himself more disappointment than prize winners, if he attempts anything of this kind.

Farmers and others similarly situated whose time is largely taken up with

other duties, and yet who want to keep poultry, and keep it at a profit, will be wise if they limit themselves to one breed. In so doing they will save house room, fencing, worry and mongrelism. Keep one breed, and keep it pure, and don't be afraid to pay what a good bird is worth to some one else when you wish to steer clear of the dangers of inbreeding, or eliminate some defect which has crept into your flock. Don't be satisfied to keep full bloods merely, but seek to keep the finest specimens of the breed, and you will never have any difficulty about finding a buyer at prices which will make you duly grateful to the humble individual from whom you got this advice.

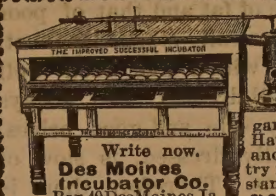
### CLOSE CULLING.

The failure to cull closely is one of the greatest hindrances to successful poultry culture. Even those people who are moderately careful in this respect cannot wholly resist the temptation to hold on to fowls which their better judgment tells them they would be better off without. The main trouble is that they don't just know what to do with them. They are too good to send to market, and they are retained one month after another in the hope that on opportunity will offer to dispose of them as breeders. Of course they are not what breeders of fancy stock would want, but are exactly suited to the needs of that class of people who want full bloods at a low price for grading up purposes. But there is seldom anything gained by holding on to this kind of stock. It had better be sold even at the price of market stock than kept half way or entirely through the winter on the uncertainty of doing better with it. Nearly all poultry keepers are crowded for room in the winter, and this is very often due to the fact that they are holding on to too many inferior birds which will never pay for the grain which they have eaten. Very few of us have the courage to cull as we ought to.

### Faked.

A bird is "faked" when objectionable feathers are pulled out or colored, or when anything is done to it to make it appear better than it really is. This faking business is often resorted to for the purpose of improving the appearance of the birds for the shows, but a

smart judge often makes those who do it feel very sorry for it.



**SUCCESSFUL INCUBATOR**  
Our magnificent new catalogue giving full information regarding artificial Hatching & Brooding and treatise on poultry raising sent for 4c stamps. Circular free.

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**Des Moines Incubator Co.**  
Box 40 Des Moines, Ia

## RUTHERFORD BROS.

—BREEDERS OF—

**\* White Wonders.**

The hardiest of all fowls, and the best general purpose breed for the north.  
AURELIA, IOWA.

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The best of everything in the line of nursery stock at

**Hard Times Prices.**

I am prepared to fill orders for fruit trees in any amount, blackberry raspberry and strawberry plants, EVERGREENS AND

FOREST TREES.

And, in fact, everything which can be supplied by any first-class nursery.

**Write for Price List,**

Or call at nursery two miles east, and two and a half miles south of Cherokee, Iowa. Address

PILOT ROCK NURSERIES,  
Cherokee, Iowa.

**Frederick E. Coleman,**

Manchester Green, Conn.

—BREEDER OF—

**Barred Plymouth Rocks**

**W. C. Black Polish.**

Eggs for hatching \$1.25 per 13, \$2.00 per 26. A year's subscription to the MESSENGER with every order if you mention paper. Good stock and fair play. Write for prices of stock.



## SHIPPING DRESSED POULTRY.

First see that all poultry is well fattened, as there is a great difference between the price of fat and that of poor poultry, and, in a fully stocked market, good poultry, which has been well fattened and well dressed, will always command ready sale and good prices, while poor, badly dressed, is slow of sale at low prices. Therefore there is not only gain in weight by having poultry properly dressed, but also in price. Corn is the best for finishing off poultry, as it gives a firmer flesh and yellow color than buckwheat and other grains. Feed nothing from twelve to twenty-four hours before killing, so that the crops will be perfectly empty.

In killing use a sharp, narrow-bladed knife, inserting in the mouth as far back as the ear, and cutting the vein. Then hang up by the legs until thoroughly bled. The water for scalding should be at boiling point. Take the fowl by the legs and head, dip it in the water two or three times, letting the hot water through the feathers to the skin. Then strip off the feathers clean pin-feathers and all. If the heads are dipped in the water the scalding will make them look stale and shrunken. After thoroughly picking, dip in clean, scalding water, then plunge in clean cold water, letting it remain about ten minutes. Take it out and hang up in a cool dry place, in a current of air, but do not let it freeze. Do not draw it or take the intestines out. Leave the head and legs on, and use great care in dressing not to rub or tear the skin, bruise the flesh or break the bones. The above hints are for scalded poultry, which is in most demand.

For dry picking, kill by bleeding in the mouth, and immediately strip the feathers off clean while the fowl is warm, using great care not to fowl or tear the flesh. Then hang up by the legs to cool off, the same as for scalded fowls. Some persons also do what is called half-scalding, which is, after dry picking cleanly, to dip in scalding water, then in cold. Turkeys, ducks and geese go through the same process in dressing as fowls, both scalding and dry picking. Some persons, after the ducks and geese are picked, to more thoroughly free them from pin feathers, rub them over with powdered rosin; dip in scalding water and rub off the rosin and pin feathers; then wash thor-

oughly with warm water and brush with soap; then rinse in cold water and hang up until cold and thoroughly dried.—American Agriculturist.

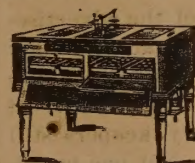
## THE FEEDING TROUGH.

All things considered, perhaps a twelve inch board is about as good a feeding trough as anything. It can be easily scraped and washed, and occupies but little room after being used and hung up against the wall, as it should. The feeding trough is something to which the successful poultryman of to-day gives very little thought. His feeding is mostly done in the scratching pen, and consists mainly of whole grain. The mere taste of the mash which he gives to his hens in the morning does not call for much preparation in the way of a trough. Anything will answer which will keep it out of the dirt of the floor. There was a time when it was thought necessary to give the hens a liberal amount of soft, bulky feed in the morning—a mixture of bran, ground corn and oats. The question of a trough was then of some importance. But that method of feeding is out of date. Poultrymen of the present time do not feed concentrated food in the morning except in the most sparing manner. There is no danger that the small quantity which is given will be trampled over and soiled. It will be picked up almost as soon as it touches the floor. The scratching pen is the feed trough of to-day, and the time of the keeper is better spent there than on the elaborate

contrivances in the way of feeding troughs which used to be considered a necessary part of the poultryman's outfit.

Among the minor diseases of poultry there is nothing more objectionable than the scaly leg. However perfect a fowl may be in form and plumage, it is an object of disgust if its feet and legs are thickly covered with great ugly scales. Scaly leg is easily prevented, and the poultryman will save himself serious trouble if he makes it his aim to prevent it rather than cure it.

## Incubator ON TRIAL.



Try it before you buy it  
Highest Award  
World's Fair.

Plans of Brooders,  
Houses, etc., 25 cts.  
Judge of Incubators  
at World's Fair

says: "If I were going to buy for myself I would give the Von Culin the preference." Book Incubation, 5 cts. Von Culin Incubator Co., Delaware City, Del.

## Good Birds at Rock Bottom Prices.

Pure bred Black Langshans of both sexes. Cockerels \$1 each, pullets 50 cents. Also Light Brahma cockerels at same price. No better stock in Iowa.

MRS. J. A. BOYNTON,  
Clarion, Wright county, Iowa.

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## INCUBATORS

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132  
Yards  
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Class  
Fowls

SELF-REGULATING

fowls; also full line of Poultry Supplies—anything you want. Price of Guide, 10 cents in stamps—worth one dollar.

To hatch 80 per cent of the fresh and fertile eggs. Hundreds of recent testimonials! Have this year (1896) issued our Eleventh Annual Poultry Guide and Combined Catalogue in one valuable book.

## PROFITS IN POULTRY!

This 148-page, fully illustrated Poultry Guide tells you about profits in poultry; about hatching eggs with machines; about brooding chicks without hens. We have for sale sixteen popular kinds of thoroughbred fowls; also full line of Poultry Supplies—anything you want. Price of Guide, 10 cents in stamps—worth one dollar. Address, RELIABLE INCUBATOR AND BROODER CO., Quincy, Ill.

# Ship Your Produce Direct TO MARKET.

It is the only way to get the true value of what you have to sell. It is no longer an experiment. Our shippers testify to it every day. We receive and sell: **Butter, Eggs, Poultry, Veal, Game, Hay, Grain, Beans, Seeds, Potatoes, Broom Corn, Hides, Wool, Green and Dried Fruit, Vegetables.** or any thing you may have to ship. We make prompt sales at the Highest Market Price and send quick returns. Write us for Prices, Shipping Tags, or any information you may want.

**SUMMERS, MORRISON & CO., Commission Merchants,**  
174 South Water Street, CHICAGO, ILL.

References: Metropolitan National Bank, Chicago, and this paper.



## EXPECT TOO MUCH.

Some of the finest birds in the possession of the writer at present were hatched from the same setting of eggs which produced specimens so badly "off" that no breeder would want them to be seen on his premises. This setting of eggs was obtained from a competent and conscientious breeder, and the birds are an example of the best stock of the kind which his years of experience has enabled him to produce. We were assured that the eggs came from a pen made up of his choicest fowls of that breed, and we believe it. And yet such a wide variation in the individuals might well raise a doubt as to this in the minds of those new to the business of rearing thoroughbred poultry. Such persons might even have suspicions concerning the purity of the blood. We have good reasons for believing that this same condition of things has often given rise to much dissatisfaction and angry accusation between perfectly honest keepers of thoroughbred poultry.

It is certain that as a rule amateur poultry raisers expect too much when they obtain a setting of eggs from some breeder of reputation and experience. They are not prepared to see that some of the birds thus obtained could win nothing at a poultry show except discredit to the breeder who would attempt to exhibit them. And yet such is very often the case when the fact of purity of blood is beyond question. This is more particularly the case with comparatively new breeds in which the distinctive qualities have not become fixed as in those which have been subject to the manipulations of poultrymen for a long term of years. But even in the oldest breeds defects of a conspicuous kind will frequently show themselves, and this too when the specimens come from the hands of those who are entitled to rank as expert breeders.

Efforts have been made from time to time to ascertain the opinions of prominent poultry breeders in relation to the per cent of "exhibition stock" which may reasonably be looked for from the eggs of birds of first-class breeding. As might be expected, there is no unity of opinion on this point, the answers to the question ranging all the way from 25 to 90 per cent. If all breeds were included in the estimate, those which were familiar to the poultrymen of two

or three decades ago, as well as those which have only recently obtained a place in the standard, the writer would say the smaller figure was not far from the correct one. Some will honestly disagree with us on this point, and some will pretend to do so from motives of self interest. We shall say, however, that no breeder will ever hear a word of faultfinding from us who can furnish us eggs of any breed which will yield us that proportion of birds that we would be willing to take into an exhibition hall and show them under the name of our yards.

## INBREEDING.

Don't inbreed. If you want sound, vigorous, healthy chickens, don't do it. Those who are seeking to establish a strain, or breeding for fine points, are compelled to go contrary to this rule. But their fowls would have a better constitution if they did not do it.

We find that the notion is quite generally held by keepers of poultry that no particular harm will follow if the roosters are changed every two or three years. They ought to be changed every year. Many people whose hens are sluggish, inactive and wholly wanting in the practical qualities which make fowls profitable, are simply an example of the effects of inbreeding. The owners are conscious of the fact that their flock is not what it ought to be. The birds do not appear altogether right, and yet they are not sick. And no amount of attention can get the results from them which one might reasonably expect. The trouble is that the birds lack stamina, because in their parental relations one of the great laws of nature has been violated.

We do not mean to say that perfectly sound, healthy fowls, entirely free from the evils of inbreeding, could be materially injured by using the same rooster two years in succession. But it is best not to make a start in the habit. The flock will be all the better if there has been no inbreeding at all. Inbreeding to any extent cannot be done without injury, and though the injury may not always be perceptible, the taint of it is in the flock just the same. The man who realizes the importance of stamina in his flock will not inbreed even a little bit.

It has been ascertained that a freshly laid egg will freeze quicker than one which is a day or two old.

## Unprofitable Stock.

The late hatched chickens that are running with those of full growth are usually pitiable objects in winter. They are crowded aside, picked at and abused, and the most of them succumb to the hard usage to which they are subjected before the winter is over. Late hatched chickens can be brought through the winter in good shape here in the north provided they are given very warm quarters, and kept in a flock to themselves. Where this is not done, chicks hatched after the first of August are a bother and a nuisance, and wholly without profit to the owner.

Many of our readers will remember the fatalities which recently occurred at Sabula, Iowa, in which the lives of seven wedding guests were lost after they had enjoyed the wedding feast. Many of the others were also made seriously ill. The Iowa State Board of Health, which has been investigating the causes of the deaths, have determined that it was due to eating chicken that had not been properly bled. It is a well-known fact that many of the poultry dressers use a small awl in killing poultry, which is pricked into the top of the head, and the feathers are then removed, the slight wound affording no opportunity for sufficient bleeding. If the conclusion reached by the Iowa Board of Health be true, this practice should be abandoned, and some method of killing should be adopted which would allow the fowls to bleed fully before rigor sets in.—Iowa Homestead.

**SIMPLEX HATCHER & BROODER**  
combined. The most Perfect Incubator Made. Hatches every egg that a hen could hatch; Regulates itself automatically; Reduces the cost of poultry raising to a minimum. Send for Illus. Catalogue. Simplex Manufacturing Co., Quincy, Ill.



**T. C. CREPPS,**

Breeder of

**Poland-China Swine.**

No better stock anywhere. Write for description and prices.

**T. C. CREPPS, Aurelia, Iowa.**



## Notes About Chickens and Fruits, And Answers to Queries.

Address all communications for this department to O. P. Greer, Bourbon, Indiana, and mention the MESSENGER.

C. S. writes that he has a hen that is crop-bound and wants to know what is the cause and the best remedy.

There is more than one thing that will cause crop-bound. Feeding too much on dry food without watering regularly, feeding musty, indigestible food, and perhaps other things will cause crop-bound. Crop-bound is an aggravated form of indigestion, and often results in death of the fowl if not properly attended to. The crop will become inflamed, and the contents gets putrid and virulent. Unless it is a very valuable bird that is attacked the quickest and best way is to use the hatchet. Castor oil and kerosene oil given in teaspoonful doses is said to have effected a cure in many cases, but I have never tried the remedy. If the bird is a valuable one you can perform a little surgery if you like which is always successful if well done and the fowl is properly attended to after the operation. Cut the crop open with a sharp knife and empty out all the offensive matter, wash out the crop nicely with warm water and sew up the slit with a needle and thread. This operation is a very disagreeable one, but perhaps the less said about that the better. After the operation keep the bird in a quiet place and feed on soft food entirely until the bird is well.

I would like for you to inform me how fowls are killed and dressed in large numbers.—S. B.

This is a question on which I am not well posted. I understand that some large establishments hang up the birds by their legs and with a sharp pointed knife make an incision at the back of the roof of the mouth which causes instant death. They will bleed freely and must be picked while yet warm. It is said by this method the skin presents a more natural appearance than when scalded.

Will you explain what is the advantage of a pedigree?—D. S.

The value of a pedigree in poultry or other domestic stock, is only proof that those which are recorded have come from good stock.

"The value of the poultry product is more than the value of the wheat crop.

greater than the product of the iron furnaces, twice the value of the wool product and three or four times the value of the silver mines." Who said the poultry business was only a side show to be run by women?

From the many inquiries that I receive from breeders not one in twenty want hens. Here is where I think a great mistake is made. It has been proven beyond a question that mature birds, hens two or three years old, will broduce the strongest, most vigorous and best offspring. Pullets will lay more eggs and will look a little slicker and I presume that is the reason they are more in demand. You will make a mistake by keeping only pullets for your breeding pens next season.

It would be folly to look for many eggs if your fowls are lousy and the proper material is not furnished them to make eggs. Rid them of lice, feed them nutritious foods, animal and cereal, in proper amount, and I will guarantee a well filled basket of eggs every evening winter and summer, with a comfortable house in winter.

During the month of October I fed my fowls about ten bushels of small potatoes that would not bring anything in the market. I fill a large iron stove kettle about two thirds full of the potatoes, put in the same kettle about one quart of shelled corn and the same of wheat. Put on the kettle and boil until the potatoes are done, using only enough water to prevent the potatoes from burning on the bottom of the kettle. Stir together with a paddle and feed warm but not hot. Throw in a little pepper and any table scraps you may have on hand. A little of Pratt's poultry food stirred in the mess occasionally will be beneficial. This was a scheme to use up a lot of small potatoes and save wheat and corn.

Don't feed your fowls more than they will eat up clean. If they stand around and do not come up freely when you feed, it is a good sign that you are over-feeding.

If you are inexperienced in the poultry business, and undertake to breed a number of varieties, you may just as well write failure in big letters over the hen house door. It takes experience, money and lots of vim to breed several varieties of poultry and keep them in shape, and good enough to exhibit in the best society. You may be-

come crestfallen trying to breed even one variety to a high standard of perfection. At the fairs I have met breeders—hucksters—who were exhibiting twenty or thirty varieties of poultry, and some of them had never seen the Standard. They had sent to Tom, Dick and Harry for cheap eggs and fowls, and all they knew about chickens was what they had picked up at these chicken—pumpkin—fairs. Some of the birds exhibited were fair specimens, but many were scrubs not fit to exhibit or breed.



Have you received a copy of

**My '96 Catalogue?**

If not, write for one, for you need it if you are interested in good fowls.

C. D. BATES,  
Au Sable, Michigan.

## Standard Buff LEGHORNS

I want every person interested in this popular and beautiful breed to send for our large, 4-page '95 circular free, stamp accepted. I have one of the finest flocks, and prize winners, scoring 94½ by Felch to 93½ by Drevenstedt. Also Black Javas and Columbian Wyandottes. Get my circular sure.

GEO. S. BARNES,  
Battle Creek, Mich.

## "Bean's Buffs"

We make a specialty of breeding all BUFF FOWLS in their purity.

**150 CHICKS Bred From Winners 150**

At the Minnesota State Fair September, 1894, and Minneapolis January 1895, for sale after October 1st.

## 100 Breeders for Sale Now

scoring from 90 to 93. Prices reasonable. Quality to govern. Also dealer in a full line of

## Poultry Supplies

And Specialties of all kinds at Rock Bottom Prices. Terms cash. Circular and price list free if you mention the MESSENGER.

**Anoka Buff Pultry Yards.**  
Lock Box 72, ANOKA, MINN.



## POULTRY PRESS.

By Frederick E. Coleman, Manchester Green, Conn.

I would like to ask the poultry farmers of this country what they are doing towards supporting the poultry press. A good deal, I hope, but I fear that many are not doing all that they might. I am taking every poultry paper (except game journals) that has entered the field since July, 1894, and am advertising in many of them. I have subscribed for 22 of the new papers, and shall not take nor advertise in any of the older journals.

If it is a sample copy in which the reader finds this article, I want to request him to subscribe for the paper, and to do so at once. Or get four of your neighbors to subscribe, send their names and a dollar to the editor, and he will send the paper to the five addresses for one year. Just try it and see what a lot of reading matter you will get for a very trifling sum of money. All who keep poultry should take at least a half dozen poultry papers. They are not doing their duty if they do less than this. The fancier, the farmer, and everybody who keeps poultry is being helped by the poultry papers whether they read them or not.

For a general purpose fowl I think the Barred Plymouth Rocks are about the thing for a farmer to keep. I keep them because they are extra good layers, but they must be hatched early in April in this climate to make good winter layers. They should not be inbred at all if you wish to have them up in size. I weighed a pullet to-night [December 25th] that tipped the beam at 7 pounds 2 ounces. She was hatched about May 1st.

## Send For It.

C. D. Bates, of Au Sable, Michigan, the well known breeder of Black Langshans, has just issued a handsome catalogue which he will willingly place in the hands of all who ask for it. Mr. Bates is a successful breeder, and in this catalogue he reveals many of the things by which he has become so. You cannot put a postal card to better use than in writing for it.

If you keep poultry at all, decide now to keep thoroughbred poultry another year. Come to a conclusion what breed you will keep, and then stick to that breed.

## LITERARY NOTES.

Ex-President Benjamin Harrison will discuss "The Presidential Office" very comprehensively in his "This Country of Ours" series, in the forthcoming Ladies' Home Journal. He will detail the provisions and methods of electing a Chief Magistrate, and will have much to say bearing upon the eligibility of a President for re-election; will give his views as to the length of the Presidential term, and express rather decided opinions relative to the annoyance to which Presidents are subjected from office-seekers. General Harrison believes that the fears (expressed by the framers of our constitution) that the power of office is such as to enable an ambitious incumbent to secure an indefinite succession of terms have never been realized. "Some of our leading and most thoughtful public men have challenged the wisdom of the four-year term, and have advocated six years, usually accompanied with a prohibition of a second term. It seems unlikely, however, that any change in the Presidential term will be made unless some unexpected event should stir into action a thought that is now of a theoretical rather than a practical cast."

The January Number of The Delineator is called the Winter Holiday Number. The Fashion articles for the month are timely and complete, covering the entire field of styles for Ladies, Misses and Children. Mrs. Roger A. Pryor's article on the Social Code relates to Society Balls and to Balls and Parties for Children. The space devoted to Woman's Work and Advancement includes a thoughtful conversation between Edith M. Thomas and Dr. S. R. Elliott on Woman in Business, an interesting paper by Miss Margaret McNaughton discussing Architecture as a profession for women and Harriet Keith Fobes' directions for Burnt Decorations Upon Cardboard, and the continuation of Sara Miller Kirby's Kindergarten Articles. The first of a brief series of Papers on The Care of the Teeth, by a well known New York dentist, will be found exceptionally valuable. The Delineator is the Woman's Favorite Magazine, and is issued by the Famous Fashion Publishers, The Butterick Publishing Co., at 7 to 17 West Thirteenth Street, New York, at the rate of \$1.00 per year or 15 cents per single copy.

## A Serviceable Fence.

Notice the advertisement of the Union Fence Company. We know that persons who are thinking of buying fencing of this kind cannot do better than to enter into correspondence with this firm. The company fully understands the needs of western farmers in this line, and manufacture a fence which is not surpassed by any which has been put upon the market.

# Wall Paper

IS

# Very Cheap.



If you have been in the habit of buying of local dealers without correspondence with the large wall paper merchants, you will surprise yourself by finding out what a quantity of it you can get for a very little money. One of the largest dealers in wall paper in the United States is

**C. H. TIEDT,**  
623 West 63d Street,  
Station O. **CHICAGO.**



He can save you a good bit of money if you will give him the chance to do so, and he is anxious to do it. Its business for him and its business for you. Write to him for samples and prices, and you will not need to inquire how he can do this.



## If you are out of Business

You can make money easily and rapidly by acting as our agent.





# The Poultry Messenger.

AND

## Western Fruit-Grower.

Published the first of every month by  
**The Messenger Company,**  
**AURELIA, IOWA.**

Subscription Price, 25 Cents per Year

ADVERTISING RATES.--Sixty Cents per  
 inch, each insertion.

### BREEDERS' CARDS.

Thirty words three months for sev-  
 enty-five cents.

Anyone wishing to become proficient in the handling of poultry should send ten cents in stamps to the Des Moines Incubator Co., Des Moines, Iowa, for their book on practical poultry keeping

Doctors and lawyers sometimes disagree, and so also do poultry keepers. It is not a matter of special interest to us how the former settle their differences, but we do like to see poultry keepers stand up and fight it out like men, and not pout, and whine, and snuffle, when someone swipes them in their most tender spot and tells them that they don't know half as much as they think they do. We can only get at the truth by every one being allowed the fullest liberty to have his say. Give all a chance to tell what they know, or think they know, and show no favors to the fellow who seems to regard an attack upon his individual views, or something in the direction of which his financial interest lies, as a personal insult. It will do this fellow good to be hit often and hard.

The belief appears to be gaining ground that the employment of specialty judges at the poultry shows would insure more thorough work in the matter of scoring. We are among those who believe that one man cannot possibly train himself to become an expert judge of all breeds recognized by the standard, and as long as this is attempted there will necessarily be much injustice done. We believe that the men who give themselves to this work are as a rule honest and conscientious, but we are also of the opinion that they are themselves often made conscious of the fact that with respect to soundness of judgment on their part, all breeds

which pass through their hands do not fare equally well. A doubt of their competency to fairly pass judgment upon breeds with which they come in contact less frequently than others must sometimes arise in their own minds. There are difficulties in the way of employing specialty judges, and it is by no means clear to us how they are to be overcome; but for all this the indications are that at the larger shows, at least, this will become the rule in the near future.

We again invite poultry keepers whose experience has taught them anything out of the usual order which they think it would be to the advantage of others to know, to put it in shape for publication and send it to us. We want the experience of practical poultry keepers, and we want it bad. If it differs from our own, and seems to indicate that in some of the things we have been teaching we are on the wrong track, we want it all the same. Don't be afraid of hurting our feelings. We cannot always be in the right, and we regard it as a kindness to be shown where we are wrong.

The writings of editor Curtis, of the Reliable Poultry Journal, are an inspiration to all who are finding their pack almost too heavy for their shoulders. His cherry admonition to brace up, to push the dragging feet along a little further towards "the turn in the lane," has doubtless been the saving of many a discouraged mortal who was about to give up the fight in despair. We opine that Mr. Curtis thus reveals the power which has made the Reliable Poultry Journal the phenomenal success that it is.

Elsewhere in these columns will be found a communication from Mr. F. E. Coleman, of Connecticut, which we commend to the consideration of the poultry keepers into whose hands a chance copy of the MESSENGER may fall. Mr. Coleman believes in giving the new poultry paper a chance for its life. He does not believe in starving it to death simply because it is new. We do not approve of his policy of patronizing them to the exclusion of the older journals, but he shows a commendable spirit in his sympathy for the papers which are just starting on their career, and must undergo the usual hard struggle

before they can stand securely on their feet. By and by some of these new poultry papers will have outlived their newness, and will be in a position to make a fitting return for any kindness which has been shown them, and do their early friends some good. When that time arrives such men as Mr. Coleman are not likely to be forgotten by them.

The editor of the MESSENGER wants to contract for several settings of Golden Wyandotte eggs in exchange for advertising space. He is also desirous of procuring a good male bird of that breed on the same terms.

### Valuable Guide to Profitable Poultry Raising.

The New, 160-page, finely illustrated Poultry Guide and combined Incubator and Poultry catalogue for 1896, published by the Reliable Incubator and Brooder Co., of Quincy, Ill., is a book which should be in the hands of the up-to-date, wide-awake poultry raiser who wishes to get out of his fowls the best returns possible. This enterprising company has this year outdone itself by getting out a Poultry Guide that, as a book of trustworthy information and of reference, is too valuable to be destroyed or thrown away. It will cost the company over \$4,000 to issue and mail this book. It gives bed-rock facts about the profits in poultry on the farm, about feeding especially for eggs, about Pekin duck farming, and about raising geese. It presents the characteristics of twenty-five varieties of thoroughbred chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese as compared with common stock; it tells how to kill, dress, pack and ship poultry to market, when and where to ship and the commission charged; it gives market quotations for 1893, 1894 and 1895 at the principal markets of the country; tells about building incubator cellars and brooder houses; about symptoms treatment and cure of poultry diseases, giving remedies, and presents new, original, copyrighted illustrations by Artist Sewell, of the sixteen popular varieties of fowls this company breeds and has for sale: also four full page cuts showing views of Reliable Poultry Farms Nos. 1 & 2, claimed to be the largest thoroughbred poultry plant in America. They charge ten cents (in stamps or silver) for this 160-page book, for keeping merely curious people from sending for them. To those who mean business this guide and catalogue is easily worth one dollar. In it will be found listed a full line of poultry supplies, including several new and useful articles.

When writing the Reliable Company kindly mention this paper.



# Fruit Growing.

## YOUNG VINES THE BEST.

The most successful northern Iowa grape growers make a practice of starting some new vines every year. The new vines are much hardier than the old ones, as many persons who never observed the fact before have found out within the past year. About every old grape stock which was allowed to stand unprotected last winter is either killed, or else so badly injured as to place it beyond all further usefulness. But many young vines so exposed escaped serious harm, and bore better than half a crop the past season. Good grape growers in the northwest, if they have not already done so, will hereafter place their main reliance of a crop upon young vines, and will see to it that there are always plenty of these on their grounds in a good thrifty condition.

The fact must not be overlooked, however, that one's dependence upon young vines for a crop does not do away with the necessity of laying down in the fall and mulching. While a crop will often be obtained without this, the best results, one year with another, cannot be attained in any other way. People should not attempt to grow grapes in this latitude without giving the vines some winter protection. The risk of losing them is too great without this. Simply loosening them from the trellis and laying on the ground will usually enable them to go through the winter without injury, but it is best to keep on the safe side and lightly cover them.

## For Protecting the Tree Trunks.

A. J. Philips, Secretary of the Wisconsin State Horticultural society, says that the best thing he has ever used for the protection of young fruit trees from rabbits and mice is eight laths woven together by a wire so that they are an eighth of an inch apart. This also protects against sun scald. The cost is one-half cent per tree, and he estimates that it will prolong the life of the tree from three to ten years. Mr. Philips has been following this plan for many years, and prefers it to any other method of protection. After being placed in position it is allowed to

remain until it becomes too small by the growth of the tree to longer answer any good purpose.

## An Important Experiment.

Iowa Homestead: Mr. A. F. Coleman, of Corning, Iowa, stated before the Western Horticultural Society that in 1882 he set a row of twenty-five apple trees one year old. The next season he added a row of two-year-old trees. The next another of three-year-old trees, and the next a row of four-year-old trees. All the trees were from the same setting of grafts. Those set at one year old subsequently became the largest and best, while those set at four years old are the poorest of the lot.

## Blackberry Culture.

The two chief difficulties in blackberry culture are the drouth and winter killing. These may be reduced to one difficulty, because the management during the summer is often the chief cause of winter killing. Every possible effort should be made to force a vigorous growth early in the spring, and this should proceed regularly until a fall rain comes, when the autumn months should be used to mature the wood. The cultivator should be kept going as soon as dry enough in the spring, and the priceless water should not be allowed to get away. The whole surface should be covered with a fine, loose earth all the time and a crust should not be allowed to remain a moment longer than necessary. Cultivate every week and after every rain. It is the greatest blunder to stop the cultivator when picking begins, just when the bushes need moisture so much to fill their great loads of berries with their rich juices.—R. M. Kellogg, of Ionia, Michigan.



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The cockeral arrived all o. k. Don't think I could have found a bird anywhere to suit me any better. Sent him over to St. Louis, won 1st.

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**\$250 An Acre.**

We are told by reliable fruit growers that they can make \$250 a year clear profit from an acre of currants. These men also tell us that there is nothing in the line of small fruits which pays better than the currant. It requires less work to take care of a patch of currants than of any of the berry family, and the crop is as sure as any. The currant will flourish anywhere that the apple will, and it requires no special condition of soil or lay of land. The entire crop can usually be secured at one picking, and the labor of picking is very much less than that required by blackberries or strawberries, as the picker may be seated on a stool the greater part of the time while gathering the fruit. It is conceded that the best time to start the currant is in the fall.

Patten's Greening is, all things considered, the best thing in the way of a winter apple which can be planted in northern Iowa. It is all of 20 per cent hardier than Whitney or Wealthy, and is a good bearer.

Not many years ago it was generally regarded as a damage to a fruit tree of any kind to cover the ground about it with manure. It is now admitted by everybody whose opinion on the subject is of any value that an orchard cannot be brought to its best without the liberal use of manure.

Good fruit will not grow itself, and this is the objection which many people have to fruit growing. A good crop is contingent upon seasons, insect enemies, and all the other conditions which have to be encountered in the growing of anything else. But there are no greater difficulties to be overcome in the growing of fruits than in the growing of corn or potatoes. There is no great mystery about it except that for some unaccountable reason people will not bring to bear upon it the same good judgment which is deemed necessary to success in any other branch of husbandry.

It is noticed that the farmer who contends that he can buy his small fruits cheaper than he can raise them, is very careful not to make a practical test of his theory. He may believe what he says, but in ninety nine cases out of a hundred he don't buy the fruit. He simply does without it.

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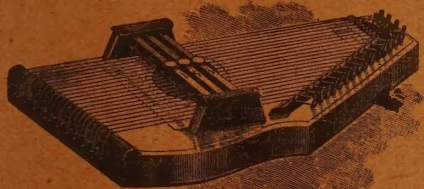
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Three Chord-Bars, 18 strings. Instruction book containing six pieces of music, tuning key, imitation tortoise-shell pick. Nicely packed. Send money-order, postal note or stamps. Send 60 cents extra if you wish it sent by mail.



Style No. 1, Price \$4.00.

Highly polished redwood spruce sounding-board, 21 strings, 3 bars, producing the following chords: C-Major, G-Sevenith, F-Major. A celluloid thumb-pick, music rack, instruction book containing 11 pieces of music, brass spiral pick and tuning key furnished with each Autoharp.



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The chords are made for the player by a simple pressure of the finger upon the chord-bar, and a sweep of the strings with the other hand. To practise is pleasure because no discord is possible. The magic words in connection with the Autoharp are, "Easy to Play." The tone is soft, sweet and pure, or strong, resonant and noble; and the instrument has wonderful possibilities under the touch of a skilful hand.

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This is a new work on poultry, compiled and written by the editor of THE RELIABLE POULTRY JOURNAL. It is meant as a source of timely information to persons who are thinking of engaging in the poultry business on a large scale for profit. It has just been published, and is believed to be the most complete work on the subject to date. There is not a dead line in it. The book is handsomely illustrated with etchings and half-tones, showing the leading breeds of fowls, practical poultry houses, views and plans of poultry farms, views and plans of broiler houses, valuable matter on the care of adult fowls, the care of brooder chicks, on artificial incubation, rules for operating incubators and brooders, directions for caponizing, preparing and shipping poultry to market, etc.

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